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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3364

E. O. 12065: GDS 4/9/88 (GREENTREE, TODD) OR-P
TAGS: PINR, PINS, ES
SUBJ: SENATOR PELL INQUIRY REGARDING CAPTURED M-16'S

REF: A) STATE 102699, B) IR 6 829 5019 82

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. DAO ROUTINELY TRACES M-16'S AND OTHER WEAPONS
CAPTURED FROM GUERRILLAS WHEN THE SALVADORAN
ARMED FORCES MAKES SUCH INFORMATION AVAILABLE. SEVERAL M-16'S
HAVE BEEN TRACED TO VIETNAM. REF B CONTAINS A COMPREHENSIVE
SALVADORAN MILITARY DOCUMENT LISTING CAPTURED WEAPONS,
WHICH WAS SHOWN TO SENATOR PELL DURING HIS FEBRUARY TRIP
TO EL SALVADOR.

3. EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO "CENTRAL RESPOSITORY" FOR CAPTURED
WEAPONS. CAPTURING UNITS CUSTOMARILY RETAIN M-16'S, AND
FREQUENTLY DISTRIBUTE OTHER TYPES, SUCH AS FAL'S AND M-1
CARBINES, TO IRREGULAR CIVIL DEFENSE FORCES.
HINTON

END OF MESSAGE

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DOS Review Completed.

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